

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4093

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 9062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, SP

SUBJ: COMMENT ON GENERAL DIEZ ALEGRIA'S COMMENTS ON THE SPANISH
MILITARY

REF: MADRID 9049

1. HOW TO SATISFY THE CHANGING ASPIRATIONS OF THE SPANISH
MILITARY IS ONE OF THE HALF DOZEN MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING
THE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT. THE PROFESSIONAL REFORMS CITED AS
NEEDED BY DIEZ ALEGRIA (REFTEL) ARE NOT SURPRISING, EXCEPT
PERHAPS FOR HIS ADVOCACY OF A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE
SIZE OF THE ARMED FORCES, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS ALSO ADVOCATED IN
AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY FRAGA BEFORE HE ENTERED THE GOVERNMENT.

2. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED, DESPITE DIEZ ALEGRIA'S PESSIMISM,
THAT EITHER HE OR GUTIERREZ MELLADO OR BOTH WILL ULTIMATELY
BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO TRY TO IMPLEMENT SOME OR ALL SUCH REFORMS. BUT
DOING SO WILL NOT BE EASY. THE MILITARY HAS ITS OWN "BUNKER."

3. DIEZ ALEGRIA GAVE EVERY IMPRESSION IN THE CONVERSATION
DESCRIBED IN THE REFTEL OF A FRUSTRATED MAN WHO DOES NOT
LIVE EASILY WITH HIS CURRENT INACTIVITY.
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